

## Improvements for Firefighters

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A Memorandum of Understanding has opened the door for NASA, led by MSFC and in collaboration with other NASA centers, to work with the Chicago Fire Department in applying NASA technologies to improve fire fighting and other emergency services.

Chicago Mayor Richard M. Dailey and Fire Commissioner Raymond E. Orosco met with NASA Administrator Daniel Goldin and the director of MSFC on April 19, 1995, in Chicago to sign a Space Act Agreement. They also began discussing various technologies that could be transferred to the department to enhance fire and other emergency services.

“The Chicago Fire Department is a strong innovator in testing, developing and adopting new methodologies and technologies,” said Goldin. “NASA is looking forward to working with them to explore ways space technology can be used to enhance emergency services. Ultimately, it will be the American people who benefit from what we accomplish here.” A number of candidate activities have already been identified for joint study, including:

- Development of a personnel locator system that will enable on-scene authorities to locate, track, and—if necessary—rescue

firefighters within a 2,400-square-foot area of operations

- Possible modification of MSFC’s dynamic structural analysis techniques to determine if a structure is in imminent danger of collapsing
- Development of a new, portable air-breathing apparatus for use by firefighters that would incorporate NASA’s knowledge of liquid-oxygen technology
- Development of an emergency vehicle alerting system to warn hearing-impaired drivers (or those in a high-noise environment) of an approaching emergency vehicle.

The MSFC’s Technology Transfer Office is responsible for the direct transfer of NASA-inspired ideas and solutions to businesses throughout the Southeast. The office also interacts with companies and government organizations around the country, providing assistance for a variety of technology challenges.

**Sponsor:** Office of Commercial Development and Technology Transfer

**Other Involvement:** Chicago Fire Department, Chicago, Illinois

